



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 16.41

Subject: Concurrent Planning

Supersedes: DCS 16.41, 08/15/02

Local Policy: No

Local Procedures: No

Training Required: No

Approved by:

Effective date: 8/15/02

Revision date: 05/01/03

Application

To All Department of Children's Services Case Managers, Children Placed In Foster Care, Foster/Adoptive Parents and Birth Parents

Authority: TCA 37-5-106

Policy

DCS may employ two simultaneous permanency goals (concurrent planning) in order to assure more rapid permanency for children and youth. Concurrent planning may be appropriate upon a child or youth's entry into care or may be employed at any time throughout the life of a case. Fundamental to the Department's concurrent planning practice is the philosophy that no concurrent goal is secondary to another and that each goal is equally viable and must be addressed as such.

Procedures

A. When to employ concurrent planning

1. It is appropriate to use concurrent goals when there is not a clear, singular goal that would reflect best practice in a given case. In best practice, goals should always assure a child or youth's speedy move to appropriate permanency.
2. If due to the nature of the child or youth's abuse or neglect it is questionable that reunification is a possibility, then concurrent planning may be appropriate.
3. When a youth over 15 years of age has a goal of adoption and there is not an identified adoptive family, a concurrent goal of Planned Permanent Living Arrangement must be employed to assure that the youth has family resources

and support as he or she enters adulthood.

B. Documentation

1. Concurrent goals must be decided upon in the child and family team meeting with all appropriate parties participating. The goals will be indicated on the Permanency Plan and ratified by the Court. The case record should also reflect the team decisions and the goals.
2. Interactions with children, youths and families (birth, foster, and pre-adoptive) as well as interactions with collateral resources should reflect efforts towards achieving each of the concurrent goals. These interactions should be reflected in case recordings to illustrate efforts of working towards the concurrent goals. Similarly, related to all quarterly and Foster Care Review Board case reviews, efforts being made to achieve permanency through each of the identified goals should be clearly documented.

Forms

CS-0577 Permanency Plan

Collateral Documents

None

Standards

None